

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 131792  
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY AF/S:JDAVIDOW:AEE

APPROVED BY AF:RMOOSE

S/S-O:JETHYDEN

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O 240457Z MAY 78 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LILONGWE NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 131792

EXDIS; FOR AMBASSADOR OR CHARGE

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: RH, UK, PD, EV

SUBJECT:RHODESIA: VISIT OF SITHOLE TO MALAWI

1. DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN INFORMED THAT REVEREND SITHOLE IS SCHEDULED TO VISIT MALAWI MAY 25 FOR CONVERSATIONS WITH PRESIDENT BANDA. YOU ARE REQUESTED TO CONTACT SITHOLE AND MAKE THE FOLLOWING POINTS TO HIM:

A. THE UK AND US REMAIN COMMITTED TO BRINGING ABOUT A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT TO THE RHODESIAN CONFLICT WHICH WILL GIVE ALL CONTENDING NATIONALIST FORCES AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY TO SECURE POLITICAL POWER THROUGH THE BALLOT BOX.

B. OUR CONVERSATIONS WITH PRESIDENT KAUNDA RECONFIRM OUR BELIEF THAT THE FRONT LINE PRESIDENTS ARE MORE CONCERNED CONFIDENTIAL

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ABOUT A LASTING SETTLEMENT THAN IN ADVANCING THE PARTICULAR FORTUNES OF SELECTED NATIONALIST LEADERS. PRESIDENT KAUNDA STRESSED HIS DESIRE FOR A NEGOTIATED END TO THE CONFLICT AND FOR FAIR ELECTIONS WHICH WOULD GRANT TO BISHOP MUZOREWA AND REVEREND SITHOLE THE OPPORTUNITY TO PROVE THEIR ACCEPTANCE AMONG THE PEOPLE OF ZIMBABWE.

C. THE FRONT LINE REGARD MUZOREWA AND SITHOLE AS LEGITIMATE NATIONALIST LEADERS WHO SHOULD HAVE A ROLE TO CLAIM IN ZIMBABWE'S FUTURE.

D. NKOMO HAS LET IT BE KNOWN THAT HE ALSO BELIEVES THAT HE COULD WORK IN HARMONY WITH SITHOLE.

E. THE NEAR TERM GOAL OF THE ANGLO-AMERICAN EFFORT, WHICH WILL BE CARRIED FORTH IN SOUTHERN AFRICA IN THE COMING WEEKS BY MR. GRAHAM AND AMBASSADOR LOW, WILL BE TO BRING ALL THE PARTIES TOGETHER FOR DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS.

F. WE BELIEVE THAT IN SUCH A FORUM THE ESSENTIAL IDENTITY OF INTERESTS OF THE NATIONALIST LEADERS, OR AT LEAST OF MOST OF THEM, WOULD BECOME MORE VISIBLE. AN EXPRESSION OF WILLINGNESS BY REVEREND SITHOLE TO PARTICIPATE IN DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE PATRIOTIC FRONT WOULD BE A MOST HELPFUL AND PRODUCTIVE STEP TOWARD THE ATTAINMENT OF AN INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTABLE SETTLEMENT.

2. FOR LONDON: PLEASE SHARE THIS MESSAGE WITH FCO, EXPLAINING THAT IMPETUS FORWARD WAS MESSAGE FROM KAUNDA CONVEYED TO US BY CHONA LATE EVENING MAY 24, WHICH URGED THAT WE SHOULD TAKE ACTION TO BUILD UPON NKOMO'S STATEMENT TO GARBA THAT NKOMO WOULD BE WILLING TO WORK WITH SITHOLE. CHRISTOPHER

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## Message Attributes

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